

# Press release: 'Mate Crime' duo jailed for longer after Solicitor General intervenes in their case

Two Sheffield men who seriously assaulted and imprisoned a vulnerable victim have had their sentences increased after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, appealed them for being too low.

Matthew Ward, aged 22 at the time and Marcus Cullumbine, then aged 20, befriended the 40-year-old vulnerable victim first and took increasing advantage of him. In 2017 they moved in with him, and gradually asserted their control. One of the offences involved Ward punching the victim in the face after alleging he owed him money for disposing of a box of latex gloves. In a later incident, the victim was kept in a cupboard for five hours while Ward's friends visited the home. The victim feared being assaulted again if he didn't comply by staying in the cupboard.

The most serious of the attacks on the victim started when he was locked in the cupboard again – this time the offenders put bolts on the outside of the cupboard to stop him getting out. He was later punched in the face, kicked in the head, attacked with a Stanley knife and burnt with various weapons. The victim was then locked in the cupboard overnight. He managed to escape the next day after claiming he had to collect a prescription and not doing so would raise suspicions. The offenders let him leave to go to the chemist but threatened to hurt his brother if he reported the attacks. The chemist called the emergency services who found that the victim had serious wounds including broken ribs and extensive burns.

Ward was originally sentenced to 16 years, Cullumbine to 11 years. Today, after the Solicitor General's action, the Court of Appeal increased Ward's sentence to 19 years, and Cullumbine's to 13 and a half years.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has increased the sentences today. The offenders exploited the victim's vulnerability and subjected him to a series of brutal assaults while imprisoning him in his own home. I hope that their sentences send a clear message to anyone despicable enough to consider abusing a vulnerable member of their community – you will not escape justice.

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# [Press release: Migration begins on HM Land Registry's national Local Land Charges Register](#)

HM Land Registry is building the foundations for a national Local Land Charges (LLC) Register and will over the coming year be working with 26 local authorities in England to migrate their LLC records to a centralised digital register, which will launch later this year and benefit up to 125,000 homebuyers in 2018 to 2019.

The new digital register will eliminate regional variations in the speed, format and costs of LLC searches, a vital part of the property buying process. Online search results will be available instantly in a range of formats to suit the customer.

Chief Executive and Chief Land Registrar Graham Farrant said:

In today's world, people expect to be able to access government information online quickly and easily, and for a reasonable fee.

A national Local Land Charges service will achieve that.

HM Land Registry has a track record for modernising land-related systems and is very pleased to be taking on the delivery of the national Local Land Charges digital register. This is a significant step forward in the Government's ambition to make the house-buying process simpler, faster and cheaper.

Most LLCs are restrictions or obligations such as listed status, tree preservation orders or notice of a conservation area. A search of these is normally required in the process of buying a home. Currently, each local authority maintains an LLC register for its administrative area and the records are held in a variety of formats such as paper, electronic and digital. Prices vary considerably, ranging from £3 to £76, and it can take up to 30 days to deliver the search results. This has led to an inconsistent service for customers depending on their postcode.

This first phase of migration will establish the foundations for the national Local Land Charges service and help HM Land Registry understand better how it can make further migration of more local authorities' LLC records simpler and faster, while using the data more effectively.

HM Land Registry will be keeping customers up to date when each local authority's LLC records are migrated to the new digital register and when search requests can be made using our centralised service.

1. The [Government response](#) to the consultation on the draft Local Land

Charges rule has been published today.

2. The [Infrastructure Act 2015](#) makes provision for the transfer of responsibility for Local Land Charge (LLC) registers from 326 English local authorities to HM Land Registry.
  3. Common obligations protected as local land charges include:
    - planning permissions
    - listed buildings
    - conservation areas
    - tree preservation orders
    - improvement and renovation grants
    - smoke control zones
    - light obstruction notices
  4. Some of the English local authorities taking part in phase one include (not an exhaustive list):
    - Blackpool Council
    - City of London Corporation
    - East Lindsey District Council
    - Council of the Isles of Scilly
    - Liverpool City Council
    - London Borough of Lambeth
    - Norwich City Council
    - Peterborough City Council
    - Sefton Council
    - St Helens Council
    - Warwick District Council
  5. HM Land Registry will provide LLC search results in a variety of formats, such as:
    - PDF – Portable Document Format
    - XML – Extensible Markup Language
    - JSON – Javascript Object Notation
  6. According to HM Land Registry data assessments, there are 25 million LLC records held across England.
  7. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for more than 85% of the land mass of England and Wales
  8. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
  9. For further information about HM Land Registry visit [www.gov.uk/land-registry](http://www.gov.uk/land-registry).
  10. Follow us on: Twitter [@HMLandRegistry](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).
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# News story: Lift-off: Satellite launched into space on RAF mission

The Chief of the Air Staff today announced the RAF's role in the launch and operation of a demonstrator satellite. Crown copyright.

The RAF has been working with the MOD's Chief Scientific Advisor, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and UK industry on the programme to deliver high-quality imagery and 3D video footage from space. The first satellite of its kind, the Carbonite-2 has completed its initial checks and is now supplying detailed imagery and footage.

The ambitious programme could eventually see high-tech satellites beaming video directly into the cockpit of fighter jets, improving the situational awareness of UK pilots by giving them the very best imagery and information anywhere on Earth in real-time.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier made the announcement at Surrey Satellite Technology Limited in Guildford, the company behind the technology, to mark the successful launch and operation of the satellite.

Speaking at the launch event, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier said:

It's entirely fitting that we have launched this highly capable satellite in the centenary year of the Royal Air Force. We have always been at the leading edge of technology, constantly innovating and expanding our horizons. This satellite will not only expand further the RAF's growing Air and Space capabilities, it will I hope also be an inspiration to those young people looking towards technology as a way to realise their potential.

The Chief of the Air Staff today announced the RAF's role in the launch and operation of a demonstrator satellite. Crown copyright.

Welcoming the news, Defence Minister Guto Bebb said:

The success of this satellite shows we are looking far beyond the skies when it comes to defending our country. We live in an increasingly dangerous world and satellite technology like this give our Armed Forces the extra advantage of quick video surveillance to keep us safe from a range of future threats, whether that's an airborne terror attack or a troop of tanks closing in on a foreign border. Investing millions into Britain's most innovative companies is helping us propel the UK forward in

the space domain.

The Carbonite-2 will play a crucial role in the MOD's understanding the potential for and shaping the RAF's vision of an international constellation for the future. This could unlock new opportunities using a range of sensors and ground stations, which has the potential to support emerging crises and combat intensifying threats, giving the UK the opportunity to lead in the area with several close allies having already shown interest in the concept.

The MOD invested £4.5m into the programme with Surrey Satellite Technology just eight months ago, and the satellite was successfully launched from Sriharikota in India. The 100kg spacecraft, roughly the size of an average household washing machine, carries an off-the-shelf telescope and HD video camera, both of which have been adapted for a space environment and integrated into a custom-built framework. The imaging system is designed to deliver high-resolution images and colour HD video clips with a swath width of 5km.

MOD's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte said:

MOD's science community is one of the driving forces of the UK's space revolution; and this is an excellent example of defence science and technology working with industry and the Royal Air Force to deliver affordable and pioneering space technology quickly for our Armed Forces.

The historic moment comes as the RAF celebrates 100 years since its formation, and demonstrates how the service is not only commemorating its history but also celebrating current success and looking forward to inspire future generations. To maximise the benefit of the experience and build expertise the RAF has placed a secondee with SSTL.

As set out in the Government's Industrial Strategy, the UK Space Agency is also working together with industry to capture a 10% share of the global space market.

The UK Space Agency's Director of Growth, Catherine Mealing-Jones said:

Space has applications across every part of our economy and is a vital part of our national capability. British companies like SSTL are the best in the world at what they do, making them a fitting partner for the RAF.

The MOD already has a world-leading role in satellite technology, with Skynet 5 delivering a resilient, sovereign capability until 2025, supporting secure communications for troops, command centres and cutting-edge unmanned vehicles. Beyond that, the MOD is fully committed to launching Skynet 6a and is looking to change defence structures to bring better operational coherence

to activities for the future.

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## [News story: Important information for DVLA customers](#)

Important information for DVLA customers – GOV.UK

DVLA's contact centre has been closed due to severe weather.



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Due to the severe weather, our contact centre will be closed this afternoon, Thursday 1 March, and also tomorrow, Friday 2 March.

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Thank you for your feedback